

FARM II

Impact Quick Reference



GROWING FLORIDA'S ECONOMY

<https://www.farmtoinstitute.com/advocacy>

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- **Empowering Local Farmers:** By boosting demand for Florida's own produce, this bill will directly increase income for our dedicated local farmers, helping them thrive and grow.
- **Revitalizing Our Communities:** Investing in local agriculture means more money stays in Florida, fueling job creation and economic growth in our rural communities.
- **Cutting Transportation Costs:** Sourcing food locally reduces transportation expenses, freeing up funds for other essential services and saving money for schools and healthcare facilities.
- **Strengthening Small Farms:** With added revenue from public institutional sales, our small and family farms will gain the stability they need to continue providing for Florida's families.
- **Saving in the Long Run:** Lower transportation and supply chain costs translate to reduced overall food expenses, ensuring more affordable and sustainable food options for everyone.
- **Driving Agricultural Innovation:** A steady demand for Florida-grown produce encourages investment and innovation within our agricultural sector, paving the way for a vibrant future

HEALTH BENEFITS

- **Elevating Nutritional Standards:** Fresh, local fruits and vegetables enhance meal quality, providing Floridians with healthier, more nutritious food choices.
- **Combating Obesity:** Healthier meals in our schools and public institutions can play a crucial role in managing weight and reducing obesity rates among Florida's youth and adults.
- **Promoting Dietary Diversity:** Access to a variety of fresh produce encourages balanced diets and helps Florida families explore new, nutritious foods.
- **Supporting Public Health:** By aligning with public health goals, this bill can help prevent diet-related illnesses and contribute to the overall well-being of our communities.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

- **Boosting Academic Performance:** Nutritious meals improve concentration and cognitive function, leading to better academic outcomes and a brighter future for our students.
- **Fostering Healthy Habits:** Schools can educate students on the benefits of local agriculture and nutrition, instilling lifelong healthy eating habits.
- **Engaging Students:** Well-nourished students are more active and engaged, enhancing their participation in both classroom activities and extracurricular programs.
- **Enriching Education:** Partnerships with local farms offer unique opportunities for hands-on learning, integrating agricultural education into the curriculum and inspiring future generations.

BENEFITS FOR HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

- **Enhancing Patient Recovery:** High-quality, fresh meals can support quicker recovery and improve overall patient health, contributing to better outcomes.
- **Managing Budgets Wisely:** By sourcing food locally, public institutions can reduce costs and allocate resources more effectively, ensuring quality care within budget constraints.
- **Improving Patient Experience:** Fresh, nutritious meals enhance patient satisfaction, making hospital stays and healthcare experiences more pleasant and beneficial.

INSTITUTIONAL BENEFITS

- **Meeting Nutritional Standards:** This initiative helps institutions meet stringent nutritional guidelines while staying within budget, ensuring healthier food options for everyone.
- **Building Community Ties:** Collaborations between institutions and local farms strengthen community bonds, support local food supply chain and local businesses, and foster a spirit of mutual support.
- **Advancing Sustainability:** Supporting local agriculture aligns with our sustainability goals, contributing to environmental stewardship and a greener future for Florida.